

Randy Fiorini
Chair, Delta Stewardship Council,
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Fiorini:

On behalf of the Orange County Taxpayers Association, I would like to share OCTax's perspective of the ongoing effort by the Delta Stewardship Council to advance the goals of providing a reliable water supply for California and restoring the challenged ecosystem of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

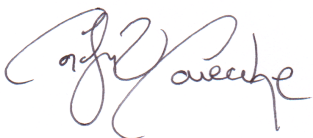
Overall, we agree with the Council findings that the status quo in the Delta is unsustainable and unacceptable. Increasing risks to the Delta threaten not only the water supply for 25 million Californians, but also the state's \$2 trillion economy that depends on reliable supplies of high quality water.

We agree that Delta water systems need to be modernized with new intakes in a manner that is compatible with Delta communities. We support the recommendation of building additional storage so that more supplies can be captured during wet periods.

To refine these broad objectives into appropriate final language, we ask that you work closely with the stakeholders representing our communities who are most closely engaged in this vital process, including the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, its member agencies, local water agencies and the State Water Contractors.

Southern California will continue to reduce its reliance on the Delta to meet future needs through historic investments in conservation and new local supply development. Water from Northern California will remain an important baseline supply and must help to provide the reserves necessary to withstand droughts. A successful conclusion to your process is critical to advance a modernization of the Delta water system to advance both restoration and water reliability goals.

Thank you for your efforts.



CEO and President
Orange County Taxpayers Association